

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet comprising at least an image formation layer disposed on a support, wherein the image formation layer includes an organic pigment having a melting point not less than 310°C; and
a light-heat conversion layer which converts light to heat disposed on a support, wherein the light-heat conversion layer has an absorbance in the near infrared light region of not less than 0.5.

2. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, further comprising at least an image formation layer disposed on a support, wherein the heat resistance of the image formation layer according to the DIN 54001 standard is not less than 200°C.

3. (canceled).

4. (original): A thermal transfer sheet of Claim 1, wherein an amount of an organic pigment and an amorphous organic polymer having a softening point in the range of 40-150°C included in the image formation layer is 30 to 70% by weight, and 70 to 30% by weight respectively, and the thickness thereof is in the range of 0.2 to 1.5 µm.

5. (canceled).

6. (original): The thermal transfer sheet of Claim 2, wherein an amount of an organic pigment and an amorphous organic polymer having a softening point in the range of 40-150°C

included in the image formation layer is 30 to 70% by weight, and 70 to 30% by weight respectively, and the thickness thereof is in the range of 0.2 to 1.5 μm .

7-16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein an image receiving sheet comprising at least a cushion layer and an imaging receiving layer disposed on a porous support is disposed on said thermal transfer sheet.

18. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein said support is transparent.

19. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said support is between 16-300 μm .

20. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein a back coat is provided on said support opposite the heat conversion layer wherein said back coat imparts stability at time of movement, heat resistance, and anti-static properties.

21. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein said image formation layer comprises a binder, wherein said binder is an amorphous organic polymer having a softening point of 40-150°C.

22. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein said image formation layer comprises an organic or inorganic matting agent which is crushed at the time of image transfer.

23. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet wherein an amount of an organic pigment and an amorphous organic polymer having a softening point in the range of 40-

150°C included an image formation layer is 30 to 70% by weight, and 70 to 30% by weight respectively, and the thickness thereof is in the range of 0.2 to 1.5 μm .

24. (currently amended): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 4, wherein said amorphous organic polymers is at least one of ~~polyvinyl butyral resin~~, butyral resin, polyamide resin, polyethylene imine resin, sulfonamide resin, polyester polyol resin, petroleum resin, homopolymer and copolymers of styrenes and derivatives thereof such as styrene, vinyltoluene, α -methylstyrene, 2-methylstyrene, chlorostyrene, vinylbenzoic acid, sodium vinylbenzenesulfonate, aminostyrene; homopolymers of vinyl and vinyl derivatives and copolymers of vinyl and vinyl derivatives (e.g. metacrylates such as methyl metacrylate, ethyl metacrylate, butyl metacrylate, hydroxyethyl metacrylate, and metacrylic acid acrylates such as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, α -ethylhexyl acrylate and acrylic acid, dienes such as butadiene and isoprene, acrylonitrile, vinyl eters, maleic acid and maleic acid esters, maleic anhydride, cinnamic acid, vinyl chloride, and vinyl acetate).

25. (currently amended): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 6, wherein said amorphous organic polymers is at least one of ~~polyvinyl butyral resin~~, butyral resin, polyamide resin, polyethylene imine resin, sulfonamide resin, polyester polyol resin, petroleum resin, homopolymer and copolymers of styrenes and derivatives thereof such as styrene, vinyltoluene, α -methylstyrene, 2-methylstyrene, chlorostyrene, vinylbenzoic acid, sodium vinylbenzenesulfonate, aminostyrene; homopolymers of vinyl and vinyl derivatives and copolymers of vinyl and vinyl derivatives (e.g. metacrylates such as methyl metacrylate, ethyl metacrylate, butyl metacrylate, hydroxyethyl metacrylate, and metacrylic acid acrylates such as

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methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, α -ethylhexyl acrylate and acrylic acid, dienes such as butadiene and isoprene, acrylonitrile, vinyl eters, maleic acid and maleic acid esters, maleic anhydride, cinnamic acid, vinyl chloride, and vinyl acetate).

26. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein a matting agent is applied to said image formation layer; and wherein said matting agent roughens the surface of said image formation layer.

27. (previously presented): A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 26, wherein the particle size of said matting agent is .5-1 μm .

28. (New) A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said support is between 16-50 μm .

29. (New) A thermal transfer sheet according to claim 17, wherein said cushion layer has a roughness of .3 to 10 μm .
